



For immediate release:
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Governor Minner Declares April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

DOVER – Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed a proclamation today urging all Delawareans to ‘Think of the Child First’ by helping end child abuse and neglect.

“Too many of Delaware’s children are suffering in silence from abuse and neglect,” said Governor Minner. “Some of these children will experience the heartbreak of mental illness, drug abuse, domestic violence, or become child abusers themselves. I am asking all Delawareans to join the Children’s Department and their community partners in raising awareness of the problem and to help end the tragedy by providing children safety and a sense of hope in their lives.”

It is estimated that every year in America more than 1,200 children, 85 percent under the age of 6 and 44 percent under the age of 1, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect. Three million reports of suspected abuse and neglect, including 7,500 in Delaware, are made each year to child welfare agencies across the nation, actual abuse and neglect incidences are estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to authorities.

The Children’s Department, in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, is observing April 7 as *Childhelp USA National Day of Hope* to focus the nation’s attention on the plight of abuse victims during National Child Abuse Prevention Month and is dedicated to raising awareness and providing caretakers of children with tools to prevent abuse and neglect from occurring. For more information, contact Prevent Child Abuse Delaware at 302-254-4611 (New Castle County), 302-674-1112 (Kent) or 302-644-4374 (Sussex). To report child abuse and neglect 24 hours a day, please call the Children’s Department Hotline at 1-800-292-9582.

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